Bird Count Comparisons

Read a model text that uses comparative and superlative adjectives.

4.11.D.iv "adjectives, including their comparative and superlative forms;"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline every comparative adjective that compares two things. Circle every superlative adjective that compares three or more things, so you can see how Maya makes her descriptions exact.

Maya's Bird Count Notes

1. On Saturday, Maya joined the River Park bird count during the morning walk beside the water. Near the pond, she spotted two herons. The gray heron stood taller than the green heron, but the green heron made quieter steps through the reeds. Maya wrote both details in her notebook. She knew that careful comparisons would help readers picture the birds clearly and accurately.

2. At the next trail, Maya watched three woodpeckers. In her sketches, the downy woodpecker was the smallest bird. The hairy woodpecker had a longer bill than the downy woodpecker. Maya gave the red-bellied woodpecker the brightest red patch in her drawing because its color stood out against the brown bark. She checked in her notes that each comparison named the birds being compared.

3. Before the count ended, Maya chose a title for her report. “Birds by the Pond” was a good title, but “River Park Bird Count” was better. Of all her title ideas, “Morning Wings at River Park” was the best. She also described the calmest place near the pond, where small waves made the water smoother than the water near the rocky shore.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Which comparative adjective describes the gray heron's height?

2. What superlative adjective tells about the downy woodpecker among the three birds?

3. What comparative form and superlative form of good does Maya use for her titles?

4. Which comparative adjective compares the water near the pond with the water near the rocky shore?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write three sentences about choosing a place for recess or a game. Use at least one comparative adjective to compare two choices and one superlative adjective to compare three or more choices. Underline each comparison adjective. Then check the comparison adjectives in your draft. Keep correct forms or revise them as needed; explain one keep-or-correct decision using the number of things compared. Write your checking note after the draft.

ANSWER KEY

Bird Count Comparisons

GRADE 4 · TEKS 4.11.D.iv

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline every comparative adjective that compares two things. Circle every superlative adjective that compares three or more things, so you can see how Maya makes her descriptions exact. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which comparative adjective describes the gray heron's height?	**taller**
2	What superlative adjective tells about the downy woodpecker among the three birds?	**smallest**
3	What comparative form and superlative form of good does Maya use for her titles?	**better; best**
4	Which comparative adjective compares the water near the pond with the water near the rocky shore?	**smoother**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The blacktop is noisier than the reading garden. The field is wider than the blacktop. Of the three places, the reading garden is the quietest.

Draft check: Keep noisier and wider because each compares two places. Keep quietest because it compares all three places.

Accept comparative adjectives such as taller, quieter, longer, better, and smoother, and superlative adjectives such as smallest, brightest, best, and calmest. For Part 3, accept any clear three-sentence response with an accurate comparative and superlative adjective that are underlined. Assess the actual draft check separately from the sentence-count requirement. Accept supported retention of correct usage as well as necessary corrections; do not require an error or a full rewrite. Check the learner's reason against the selected convention.